(b) if so, the details of the agreement; and

(c) how far Indian aviation will be benefited thereby?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) and (b) Air India has concluded an agreement with Virgin Atlantic under which Virgin Atlantic would be permitted to operate 3 services per week between Delhi and London using the traffic rights of Air India. These flights will be operated under a Code-share/Block Space arrangement with Air India under which Air India would be allocated a block of 64 scats on each one-way flight.

(c) The agreement will improve the air service operations between India and U.K. Air India expects to earn a net profit of Rs. 13.8 crores per annum from the Code-share arrangement.

Integration of Vayudoot Staff with Indian Airlines

1205. SHRI JIBON ROY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the progress of integrating the staff of Vayudoot on its merger with the Indian Airlines in 1993; and

(b) whether the employees of erstwhile Vayudoot Corporation have been provided adequately upon thier absorption in the short haul operation department of the Indian Airlines Ltd.?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) and (b) The employees of Vayudoot have been absorbed in the Short Haul Operations Department of Indian Airlines in accordance with the decisions taken by the Absorption committee appointed by the Government.

Enquiry into Hijacking of an IA Plane

†1206. PROF. RAM GOPAL YADAV:
SHRI RAMA SHANKER KAUSHIK:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have conducted any enquiry into the hijacking of Indian Airlines plane on 24th December, 1999;

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

(b) whether the aspect of the circumstances under which the plane was allowed to fly from Amritsar Airport has also been included in the enquiry;

(c) if so, what was the level of the enquiry as well as the level of power given to enquiry committee and what shortcomings have mainly been found in the enquiry report; and

(d) the action taken by Government or considered to be taken togetherwith the persons responsible for this on the basis of the enquiry report?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) No Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Comprehensive Civil Aviation Policy

1207. SHRI AMAR SINGH;
DR. GOPALRAO VITHALRAO PATIL:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have since finalised a comprehensive Civil Aviation Policy; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and by when it is likely to be announced?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) and (b) The Civil Aviation Policy under formulation seeks to set up a a policy framework to provide safe, efficient and reliable air services. The draft has been widely circulated for views/comments before finalisation.

Delays in Flight Nos. CD-7469/7470

†1208. SHRI JHUMUK LAL BHENDIA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for frequent operational delay in the scheduled time of passenger aircraft Nos. CD-7469 and CD-7470; and

(b) by when the proper arrangements will be made to operate New Delhi-Nagpur-Raipur daily flight in accordance with the scheduled time?

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† Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.